

Council's 2000 volunteers throughout 2008 and for years and decades to come.

It is with great respect and gratitude that I commend these dedicated and committed volunteers. I am honored to be able to stand with the Daniel Boone Council in recognizing their hard work and service.

CONGRATULATING CARLOS BOOZER, COREY COGDELL, AND MATT EMMONS ON THEIR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE 2008 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons, three Alaskans who recently returned from competing in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing. These three Alaskans, joined by their fellow athletes from across the country, traveled to Beijing, and represented the United States in an extraordinary manner. The U.S. Olympic team distinguished the United States from other nations by winning 110 medals, the most of any country. Carlos Boozer, Corey Cogdell, and Matt Emmons each won medals, and boldly represented the United States in their specific competitions.

I truly believe that the importance of the contributions of these three talented Alaskan athletes to our country cannot be overstated, which is why it is important that we honor their great accomplishments. For this reason I am introducing the following resolution to honor these three athletes for their accomplishments and representation of our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to preparations for and recovery from Hurricane Ike, which impacted my district, I unfortunately missed the following votes on the House floor on Thursday, September 11th and Monday, September 15th.

I ask that the RECORD reflect that had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 586, 587, 589, 590, and 591.

HONORING JOSEPH MOORE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Moore of Blue Springs, Missouri. Connor is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

ica, Troop 1332, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Moore for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

WELCOMING THE 37TH RYDER CUP TO KENTUCKY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to welcome athletes, fans, and sponsors of the PGA Tour to the City of Louisville for the 37th Ryder Cup. The competition will take place at the Valhalla Golf Club September 16–21, 2008.

The Ryder Cup matches the 12 best American golf professionals against the best 12 from Europe. The competition will be seen by hundreds of millions of golf enthusiasts throughout the world.

In the spirit of Olympians, athlete participation is grounded in the prestige of representing their country rather than prize money. I would like to make special note of two fellow Kentuckians, Kenny Perry and J.B. Holmes, joining the American team. Their competitive spirit and good sportsmanship will make our state and country proud.

I applaud the PGA of America, the PGA Tour, and First Tee for the charitable contributions they will generate through this event. The Ryder Cup will directly raise over \$780,000 in funds for charity. An additional \$2.6 million will be donated on behalf of the U.S. Ryder Cup captain and team.

It is my great privilege to recognize the athletes, sponsors, and hosts of the 37th Ryder Cup for their collective contributions to charity and international goodwill through this special event.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS AND INCREASING ADOPTIONS ACT

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act, important legislation that improves and strengthens the Federal programs that assist foster care and adoption assistance programs.

Under current law, States are reimbursed by the Federal Government for eligible foster care or adoption assistance programs through Title IV–E of the Social Security Act. Unfortunately, these very same services are not directly reimbursed when provided by an American Indian tribe. This was not a deliberate adoption

policy decision, but instead a drafting error that has meant that some tribes have been left without the Federal resources they need to support services for these priceless children.

My bill would provide parity to Native American children living on tribal land by allowing Indian tribes to have the same direct access to Federal funding for foster care and adoption services that States currently receive via Title IV–E. This legislation improves the Native American child welfare system by requiring tribal adoption and foster care programs to meet the same requirements that are required of States to ensure the safety of children placed in tribal foster care programs, while entrusting the establishment and maintenance of these programs to tribes.

The critical importance of this legislation was driven home to me when I met recently with the Mitzel family from West Fargo, ND. They have served as foster parents for 13 children throughout the years and are now adopted parents for a sibling group of five precious Native American children who were scattered from one another in the foster care system. For their persistent efforts to reunite this sibling group, I nominated the Mitzels this year for the Congressional Coalition on Adoption's Angels in Adoption Award.

I am deeply grateful for the commitment of tribal leaders to make certain that these children were united and raised as a family even though in this particular case it means that these children will be raised off of the reservation. Meeting these children powerfully drove home to me just how important it is that all of our children, including American Indian children receiving services from a tribe, have the same level of support.

This compromise bill with the Senate puts tribal adoption and foster care one step closer to being on equal footing with States and gives tribes the ability to provide their children with the culturally appropriate care they deserve. I am hopeful that this bipartisan legislation will quickly pass the Senate and be signed into law.

I urge my colleagues to support the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act to ensure that all children in foster care get the services, education and healthcare that they need.

RECOGNIZING THE YORK COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR 50 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the York County Economic Development Corporation, YCEDC, for providing economic development leadership to the York community for 50 years.

YCEDC was established in 1958 to attract new industry, promote industrial development, and create new jobs. Since its inception, YCEDC has facilitated funding in excess of \$73 million toward an estimated 150 economic development projects, creating and retaining more than 10,200 jobs throughout York County.

YCEDC has facilitated effective community and business partnerships and has evolved its

leadership role in economic development to advance a positive vision for York County's economic future. York County will continue to experience the positive effects of the organization's commitment for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the observance of the 50th anniversary of YCEDC provides a special time to express our appreciation and gratitude to its employees, board members, and members for their work and dedication to York County's continued economic well-being and quality of life. Therefore, it is with heartfelt wishes that I congratulate YCEDC for their continued success.

HONORING ALEXANDER WILLIAMS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Alexander Williams of Kansas City, Missouri. Alexander is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1314, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Alexander has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Alexander has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Alexander Williams for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINTO SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the 50th anniversary of the Sinto Senior Activity Center in Spokane, Washington. Early in the 1950's a group of enthusiastic senior citizens and community leaders began building a dream, a dream that has grown into an integral part of the Spokane community serving over 600 members.

The Sinto Senior Activity Center offers a variety of activities for members which include ballroom dancing, pool, crafts, educational opportunities, lunches, social clubs, entertainment, square dancing, music, speakers, holiday events, pinocle, cribbage, exercise and aerobic classes, round dancing, clogging, community service projects, short trips and tours, and many, many more.

Madam Speaker, the Sinto Senior Activity Center has been a staple of the Spokane community for over 50 years and through its leadership and steadfast commitment has provided senior citizens of the Spokane area a safe and comfortable place to engage in social activities. It is an honor and privilege to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the

Sinto Senior Activity Center on its 50th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL EMORY "RAY" HELTON

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Ray Helton, United States Army, on the occasion of his retirement from active duty. Colonel Helton has served our great Nation for more than 30 years as a truly exceptional officer and I am extremely proud to call him my friend.

Over the past several years, as Co-Chair of the House Special Operations Forces Caucus, I have had the honor of working with Colonel Helton during his tenure as the Director of Legislative Affairs for United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). Soldier, leader, scholar, statesman, gentleman—Ray truly personifies what a warrior should be and he has been an outstanding ambassador for Special Operations.

Colonel Helton's dedication to his work on behalf of the warfighter has been unwavering. There is no doubt that Ray has been instrumental in educating the House Armed Services Committee, other defense-related committees, and Members of Congress on a variety of issues critical to our Special Operators and their missions. His tireless efforts working with Members of Congress and the military perspective he brings to the table have undoubtedly resulted in a better understanding of the Special Operations community and its unique missions, requirements, and needs. He has been a tireless advocate for all of his fellow Special Operators. Though much of it has been behind the scenes, there is no doubt that his work has furthered our nation's goals in the continued Global War on Terror and saved lives in the field.

Colonel Helton graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from the University of Illinois Army ROTC and began serving as an Infantry Officer in January 1981. His Infantry assignments include leading two platoons in the 3d Infantry Division and commanding two companies in the 101st Airborne Division. He was transferred to the Special Forces Branch in 1988 and served as a Detachment Commander, Battalion Personnel Officer and Battalion Operations Officer in the 10th Special Forces Group. He served as a Company Commander, Battalion Executive Officer and Battalion Commander in the 3rd Special Forces Group. He has conducted training and operations with Soldiers on five continents. Colonel Helton also served as the Chief of Assignments of the Combat Arms Division in United States Personnel Command, as a Strategic Planner and Writer on the Joint Staff and as the Garrison Commander of Fort Drum, New York. Colonel Helton's military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, Combat Divers Course, Air Assault School, Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification School, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, Survival Escape Resistance and Evasion Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, Joint Psychological Operations

Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He received a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Illinois, a Master of Arts degree in National Strategy and Policy from the Naval War College and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Helton for his tireless service and support of the warfighter. His professionalism, expertise, and efforts showcase his patriotism, and his dedication to his Special Operators in the field. Though the following phrase is often used, I can say without reservation that it is rarely as appropriate as it is in this case: Colonel Ray Helton is truly a great American.

I want to personally thank Colonel Ray Helton, his wife Colonel Jane Helton, USA, and his entire family for their commitment, sacrifice, and the contributions they have all made throughout his honorable and distinguished military service. I congratulate Ray on completing an exceptional and extremely successful military career and am humbled by his dedicated service to our nation. I wish Colonel Helton and his family many blessings and much success as he begins his future endeavors and embarks on new adventures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at events in my district and state discussing legislation that will help move our country toward energy independence, I unfortunately missed some recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, September 16, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 592 (Motion to adjourn), "no" on rollcall vote No. 593 (question of consideration on H. Res. 1433), and "no" on rollcall vote No. 594 (Motion to adjourn).

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN F. SEIBERLING

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the life and legacy of Congressman Seiberling, an eight-term Congressman from Akron, Ohio. John Seiberling won Ohio's 14th Congressional District in 1970. He ran for Congress because of his strong opposition to the Vietnam War and a belief that the system could be made to work in favor of a more livable world, a peaceful world. His desire for peace was his primary reason for running.

In a speech at the University of Akron on May 6, 1970, just two days after the tragic shootings at Kent State University John Seiberling said that "the system can be made to work . . . 25 years ago I never thought that a peace candidate would win a congressional